

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A client system in a message exchanging system comprising a plurality of client systems and at least one server system connected together via a communications network, the server system authenticating each user of said plurality of client systems and accumulating and distributing messages, said plurality of client systems exchanging messages via said server system, the client system comprising:

a first message exchanging system that enables one-to-one message exchanges with a first client system of said plurality of client systems;

a second message exchanging system that enables simultaneous message exchanges with at least one additional second client systems of said plurality of client systems; and

message exchange switching system that switches between said first message exchanging system and said second message exchanging system, when said client system receives a message from said second client system while said first message exchanging system is exchanging messages with said first client system, to enable message exchanges with said first and at least one additional client systems.

2. The client system according to claim 1, wherein

said message exchange switching system sets in said server system an environment for allowing said second message exchanging system to exchange messages when said message exchange switching system switches from
5 said first message exchanging system to said second message exchange switching system.

3. The client system according to claim 2, wherein said first message exchanging system displays
10 exchanged transmitted and received messages in one display screen in the order of transmissions and receptions.

4. A message exchanging method for a client system
15 in a message exchanging system comprising a plurality of client systems and at least one server system connected together via a communications network, the server system authenticating each user of said plurality of client systems and accumulating and
20 distributing messages, said plurality of client systems exchanging messages via said server system, the method comprising:

enabling one-to-one message exchanges with a first client system of said plurality of client
25 systems;

enabling simultaneous message exchanges with at least one other second client system of said plurality

of client systems; and

switching between the one-to-one message
exchanging and the simultaneous message exchanging,
when a message is received from said second

5 client system while exchanging messages with said
first client system, to enable message exchanges with
said first and second client systems.

5. The message exchanging method for a client system
10 according to claim 4, wherein said switching sets in
said server system an environment for allowing
exchanging of messages when said switching switches.

6. The message exchanging method for a client system
15 according to claim 5, further comprising displaying
exchanged transmitted and received messages in one
display screen in the order of transmissions and
receptions.

20 7. A message exchanging method for a message
exchanging system comprising a plurality of client
systems and at least one server system connected
together via a communications network, the server
system authenticating each user of said plurality of
25 client systems and accumulating and distributing
messages, said plurality of client systems exchanging
messages via said server system, the method

comprising:

enabling one-to-one message exchanges with a first client system of said plurality of client systems;

- 5 enabling simultaneous message exchanges with at least one other second client system of said plurality of client systems; and

switching between the one-to-one message exchanging and the simultaneous message exchanging,

- 10 when a message is received from said second client system while exchanging messages with said first client system, to enable message exchanges with said first and second client systems.

- 15 8. The message exchanging method according to claim 7, wherein said switching sets in said server system an environment for allowing exchanging messages when said switching switches.

- 20 9. The message exchanging method according to claim 8, further comprising displaying exchanged transmitted and received messages in one display screen in the order of transmissions and receptions.

- 25 10. A computer-readable recording medium for a client system in a message exchanging system, the recording medium having a message exchanging program recorded

therein, the message exchanging system comprising a plurality of client systems and at least one server system connected together via a communications network, the server system authenticating each user of said plurality of client systems and accumulating and distributing messages, said plurality of client systems exchanging messages via said server system, the program comprising:

first message exchange that enables one-to-one message exchanges with a first client system of said plurality of client systems;

a second message exchange that enables simultaneous message exchanges with at least one other second client system of said plurality of client systems; and

message exchange switching that switches between said first message exchange and said second message exchange, when a message is received from said second client system while said first message exchange is exchanging messages with said first client system, to enable message exchanges with said first and second client systems.

11. The recording medium according to claim 10, wherein said message exchange switching sets in said server system an environment for allowing said second message exchange to exchange messages when said

message exchange switching switches from said first message exchange to said second message exchange.

12. The recording medium according to claim 11,

5 wherein said first message exchange displays exchanged transmitted and received messages in one display screen in the order of transmissions and receptions.

13. A program product of a message exchanging method
10 for a client system in a message exchanging system comprising a plurality of client systems and at least one server system connected together via a communications network, the server system authenticating each user of said plurality of client
15 systems and accumulating and distributing messages, said plurality of client systems exchanging messages via said server system, the program product comprising:

a first message exchange that enables one-to-one
20 message exchanges with a first client system of said plurality of client systems;

a second message exchange that enables
simultaneous message exchanges with at least one other
second client system of said plurality of client
25 systems; and

message exchange switching that switches between said first message exchange and said second message

exchange, when a message is received from said second client system while said first message exchange is exchanging messages with said first client system, to enable message exchanges with said first and second client systems.

14. The program product according to claim 13, wherein said message exchange switching sets in said server system an environment for allowing said second message exchange to exchange messages if said message exchange switching switches from said first message exchange to said second message exchange.

15. The program product according to claim 14, wherein said first message exchanges displays exchanged transmitted and received messages in one display screen in the order of transmissions and receptions.